

HAVE A

# NAGEELA SHABBOS

A Kid Friendly Torah Magazine by Nageela West Coast

DVAR  
TORAH

Jux-  
ta-po-

sition. What a word.  
But is it juxt a word? Or is  
it the source of justice?

## juxtaposition

[juhk-stuh-puh-zish-uhn] SHOW IPA 🔊 ☆

See synonyms for: [juxtaposition](#) / [juxtapositional](#) on Thesaurus.com

noun

1. an act or instance of placing close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.
2. the state of being close together or side by side.

True Sacrifice  
by Rabbi Dani Locker

will-  
ing to sac-  
rifice his own son.

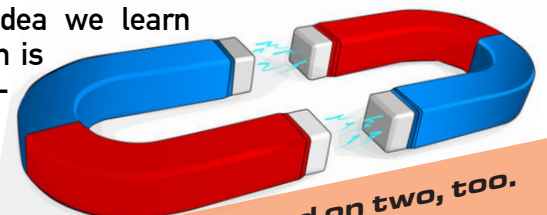
This week we read about the incredible challenge Abraham was faced with. The challenge to (as he thought at the time) sacrifice his son. When the Torah introduces the topic, it begins with, "And it was after these [things] [words], and God tested Abraham." What things or words? The previous topic was about Abraham and Avimelech arguing over some wells. Why does the Torah consciously juxtapose these topics?

According to the Midrash (as quoted by Rashi), that's not what it means. It's "After these words [from a conversation that happened]." What was the conversation? Satan dissed Abraham to God. He pointed out that Abraham had catered a massive feast celebrating Isaac, and he had not brought a single sacrifice. Not a cow. Not a ram. Not a nada. God defended Abraham by asserting that Isaac was much more valuable to Abraham than any animal and yet he would certainly be

*Even as we mark 3 weeks since the tragic events in Israel, 3 weeks since many of our men and women fight daily for all of our lives, 3 weeks of captivity for more than 200 of our family members, we hope that any inspiration or education gained from reading this publication will serve as a merit for their continued safety!*

I have one difficulty with this Midrash. One question that bothers me. I mean, I think Satan was right about this! Of course, Abraham WOULD have sacrificed his own son. The story of the akeida proved that. But that doesn't change the fact that he DIDN'T until he was asked to. Hevel (Abel) was self motivated to bring an offering. Even his brother Kayin (Cane) who gave a lousy offering, didn't have to wait for God to tell him. When Noah and his family survived the flood, what did he do? Aside from building the first walmart. He brought offerings to God. One of the great values of a sacrifice or offering is when it's self motivated. When nobody has to tell you to do it. So pardon me for siding with Satan. I certainly don't like making a habit out of it. Yet the question is valid. Why did Abraham, who finally had the child he'd been waiting for, praying for, hoping for at age 100... why did he make a feast and not bring an offering?

Perhaps an idea we learn from Abraham is there are different ways to sacrifice.



continued on two, too.

won from page one

The main purpose of a sacrifice or offering is to build a relationship with God by willingness to give away something that's of value to you. To juxtapose ourselves to God. Abraham lived his whole life that way! His money was used to host guests and do acts of kindness. We see from the way he treated the angels (who he thought were people), preparing an entire animal for each one so he could give them the choicest part, that he put his heart and soul and all of his STUFF into serving God. Just his way of offering it to God was to give it to guests, rather than burning it on an altar. It was only when Satan challenged his dedication that God required Abraham to shift gears into the actual sacrificial realm.

Sometimes we look at other people and we're like, "Wow, that way that girl prays... I wish I could have such dedication to God." or "Do you see how many guests that couple has every Shabbos? I'll never care about Jews as much as them!" or "He studies so much Torah! That's hard for me!" Abraham teaches

# WHAT'S THE DILL? WEIRD THINGS JEWS DO

## WHY ARE THERE TWELVE WINDOWS IN A SYNAGOGUE?

WHILE, OF COURSE, NOT EVERY SYNAGOGUE IS ABLE TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH THIS FEATURE, MANY AUTHORITIES INSIST THAT A SYNAGOGUE SHOULD HAVE TWELVE WINDOWS.

BECAUSE THERE ARE TWELVE TRIBES OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, TWELVE ANGELS BRING THE PRAYERS OF A PARTICULAR TRIBE 'THROUGH THE WINDOW' UP TO THE HEAVENS.

us that giving of ourselves for God comes in many different shapes and forms. The best way for us to serve God (at least in the beginning of our journey) is to find what works best for US. Juxt be you!

# PICKLE JEWS

## GALACTICALLY SYNDICATED COMIC STRIP

by Dani Locker, 2023

It's the third day from Abraham's circumcision and he's waiting in the blazing sun, hoping for a guest. Then he sees someone approaching...

Hi there...

I'd like to speak with you about your camel's extended warranty...

LOCKER

#254



**stump the rabbi**

StumpTheRabbi

is a forum where kids can

ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to [stump@nageelawest.org](mailto:stump@nageelawest.org)

(Most) questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

**Note & Disclaimer:** We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

The answers here should not be taken as halachic decisions. You should always ask a competent Rabbi personally.

## Deafening Silence

Hi Rabbi,

Why are some prayers said loudly and some prayers said whispering? I mean, is it better to pray loud or quiet? Why the changes?

Thanks

Sylas Lent

Dear Sy Lent,

An older man tells his doctor that he's worried that his wife doesn't hear well. He's afraid to offend her by bringing her to get tested. The doctor gives him a simple solution. "Stand 20 feet away and ask her a question. If she doesn't hear you, move to 15 feet and ask again. Keep getting closer until she hears you. Then you'll know exactly how bad her hearing is."

He goes home, and from the door he sees his wife in the kitchen. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Nothing.

He walks a few feet closer. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Nothing. It's bad.

He comes right next to her and shouts, "HONEY, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?"

She turns around and shouts, "FOR THE THIRD TIME, WE'RE HAVING CHICKEN!"

Sometimes people think that God doesn't hear them. They think He isn't listening, or maybe doesn't know we're asking. In reality, it is we who just aren't listening for His answers.

It is for this reason (one of the reasons at least, that our main prayers- the AMIDAH, standing prayer- is said quietly. Screaming these prayers loudly makes it seem like we don't believe God hears us. When we pray quietly, knowing that God has extremely good hearing, it's an act of faith in Him.

Yes, there are times when praying loudly is appropriate, for two reasons. One is simply in order to get emotionally involved. It's easier to get into the feeling when there's volume and motion. There are also certain prayers that are appropriate to be said as part of a congregation, like Kaddish. In fact, we are told that the response of 'yehei shmei rabbah' (is better if said with all one's strength. Shema, as well, isn't really a prayer but an announcement, and as such, should be said out loud. Yet, the primary purpose of prayer is to forge a personal relationship with God, and that's done quietly, not by shouting. Telling someone you care about them on Instagram isn't nearly as meaningful as telling them in a private conversation.

There are two other reasons I'll share for why the main prayers are said quietly:

1. It can be distracting to others who are trying to concentrate if you're shouting at the next table. 2. Part of the amida includes asking God for forgiveness for mistakes we've made.

That can be embarrassing to do out loud. However for both of these reasons, many people have the custom to pray louder on the High Holidays. More people traditionally had access to prayerbooks on high holidays, rather than praying by heart (so they were less likely to be distracted), and asking for forgiveness isn't embarrassing on those days. It's kind of the

turn for page four



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DAYS UNTIL  
CNW GIRLS  
2024

257

DAYS UNTIL  
CNW BOYS  
2024



theme.

There's an interesting history behind the volume of prayers. The great prophet Samuel was born after his mother, who had been childless for many years, prayed in the Mishkan (the temporary Holy Temple) for a child. The High priest Eli saw her praying silently- her lips were moving but her words were inaudible- and assumed she was drunk. Clearly, silent prayers were not a thing back then. Yet we learn from her that this is a seriously effective way to pray.

On a personal note, some of the most inspirational prayer services I can remember were at the sunrise minyan at the Kotel. There are loads of people there, and

everyone is praying the introductory prayers boisterously. At the moment of sunrise, there is sudden, absolute silence. In that silence, you can hear your thoughts, and the direct connection to God can be felt. Sometimes you can hear silence better than you can hear sound.

The bottom line is that there is a time and a place for both types of prayer; Loud passion, and quiet concentration. Use both as necessary, then rinse and repeat.

**Have a Nageela Shabbos,**

*The Rabbi*

## PARTIAL PARTIA

The Torah is the Jewish book of everything. For thousands of years, we've been dividing the Torah into smaller bitesized portions, each called a 'Sidra' or 'Parsha' and reading a portion or two each Shabbos. Most of our Dvar Torah articles are based on the weekly Parsha, so we're thinking about including this as a weekly segment, giving bullet points of what happens in the Parsha of the week. With some side comments thrown in. Please give us feedback!

### ● Abraham is recovering from surgery.

He has a doctor's note to miss school and everything, but he spends his time looking for guests to host.

- 3 guys come along, and they seem to be travelers. Abraham even asks them to wash their feet because he suspects they worship sand. Is it just me or is that a really strange thing to worship?
- Abraham gives them tongue with mustard, among other things. Gordon Ramsey has a tantrum.
- It turns out these guys are angels. Don't blink.
- They promise Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son, even though they were like, super old.
- You know how cool it is when someone flips an omelet in a pan? God decides to do that to Sedom, because the people were not eggcellent.
- Abraham begs God to save Sedom (and the surrounding cities) if there would be even a small number of good people. It turns out there weren't even 10 good people in the entire region. Scary.
- Two of the angels, still disguised as people, pay a visit to Lot who is kind of a big deal in Sedom. He breaks the local laws by hosting them, and gets condemned by the UN for creating unrest in the region.

- The angels rescue Lot, his wife and two daughters, as Sedom gets deep fried. Lot's wife had a bad attitude... she was salty about the whole thing.
- Sarah gets kidnapped by a Philistine king named Avimelech. Seriously, what is with these people and kidnapping? Not cool! He and his whole family get sick and he lets her go.
- Sarah gives birth to a boy who they name Isaac, and he gets circumcised at 8 days old.
- Ishmael, Abraham's older son is a bad influence on his little brother, so he and his mother get an all- expense paid vacation to the desert, where Ishmael grows up to be a pirate. Minus the water, the parrot, the peg- leg, the eye patch, the gold teeth, and the hook. He might've had a beard though.
- Abraham spends many years living in the land of the Phiistines, who by the way have no relationship to the current group of people with a similar name.
- God tests Abraham's commitment by commanding him to bring Isaac as an offering.
- Abraham is about to do it, when God commands him to stop. Instead, he sacrifices a ram, which was stuck in by its curly horns.
- Rebecca is born... what will happen next?

# QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Which three people mentioned in the Torah have the same name: One was a Jew, one a non-Jew and one a convert?

**NO CHEATING!**  
Think before you look at the answer on page 6!



TEENS IN PARK CITY, UTAH THIS WEEK, LEARNING ABOUT JEWISH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KRAV MAGA



CONGRATS TO ARIELLA FROM LOS ANGELES ON WINNING THE AIRPOD PROS IN THIS WEEK'S CHAPTER WARS!

ARIZONA

Jew Junior

**NCSU**

**ZOOM. not zoom**

November 8TH 5>7PM

@Octane Scottsdale



5-8 graders snacks and drinks provided. For more info, please call 917-813-1007 or

**ocean RACEWAY**

## WOULD JEW RATHER?

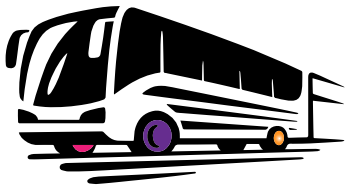
**This week on Instagram, we asked people how often they've visited Israel. At the time of publishing, here are the results:**

*I suppose I don't have many followers who live in Israel. Makes sense. Too many though have never been. Gotta change that guys! Talk to me about an NCSU Israel summer trip (maybe in a couple of months when things calm down).*

Next week's question:

Do you Jews should celebrate Halloween?  
Sure, it's fun!, No way, it's pagan!, Whatever, it's not a big deal.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN TO ISRAEL?



# CAMP NAGEELA WEST 2024

PREMIER JEWISH TRAVEL CAMP- AGES 9-15

\*MAP REPRESENTS APPROXIMATE ITINERARY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SESSION 1: JUNE 26- JULY 16 [GIRLS]

SESSION 2: JULY 18- AUG 7 [BOYS]



OUR 15TH SUMMER!

NEW FOR '24:

NAGEELA TASTE TEST- 6 DAY CAMP FOR 2-3 GRADERS

NAGEELA VIP OPTION

LAKE TAHOE  
CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES  
SAN DIEGO RENO  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
BIG BEAR LAKE

**DEEP  
DEEP  
THOUGHTS**

The youngest picture of that exists is also the oldest picture of you...

**LOLZ**

**A YOUNG JEWISH GIRL ASKS HER MOTHER, "MOM, WHERE DO WE COME FROM?"**

**"WE COME FROM ABRAHAM AND SARA, THE FIRST JEWS!" HER MOTHER PROUDLY ANSWERS. "AND THEY CAME FROM ADAM AND EVE WHO WERE CREATED DIRECTLY BY GOD!"**

**SHE THEN ASKS HER FATHER WHO TELLS HER, "WE COME FROM APES, AND WE'VE EVOLVED OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS."**

**SHE GOES BACK TO HER MOTHER, CONFUSED BY THE CONTRADICTION. HER MOTHER EXPLAINS. "YOUR DAD WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS SIDE OF THE FAMILY!"**

**THINK YOU CAN DO BETTER? YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. SEND YOUR JOKES IN TO [DLCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG](mailto:DLCKER@NAGEELAWEST.ORG)**

Upcoming programs, events and as-sorted other stuff you should know about:

NOV 3-4: Nageela Girls Shabbaton, Las Vegas

MONDAY, Nov 6: PICKLE MAKING, Las Vegas

THURSDAY, Nov 8: AZ Jewniors Go Karting

WEDNESDAY, Nov 15: Park City Jewish Teen Empowerment, Krav Maga- Part 2

WEDNESDAY, Nov 22: Brian Head Ski Day

SUNDAY, Nov 26th: CHAPTER WARS #3

THURSDAY, Nov 30: Israel themed Paint Night, Los Angeles

THURSDAY, Nov 30: Early Bird ends for Nageela West

SUNDAY, Dec 10: Shine a Light Park City

**ANSWER**

**OF THE WEEK**

The non-Jew was a son of Esav (men-tioned in Parshas Vayishlach). The Jew was the father of Eliyasaf ben Reuel (also called Deneil), the leader of the tribe of Gad. Reuel is one of the seven names of Je-thro (Yisro), who became a convert.

**Special Shout out to the stu-  
dents on the NAGEELA GIRLS  
REUNION Shabbaton this weekend!**

**MAZAL TOV!!!**

**TO NAGEELA LEGEND  
RACHEL (NAHUM) ANVAR  
ON THE BIRTH OF A BABY BOY!**

**HBD**

Happy Birthday wishes to the following Nageela family members:

**Talia Zargari  
Maor Kohen  
Myles Marks  
Elie Benzaquen**

**Jack Unitan  
Aharon Leiter  
Adina Malka Locker**



Nageela Shabbos is a weekly publication of Nageela West Coast, Joyfully Jewish Experiences.  
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